

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants respectfully acknowledge that the Examiner has allowed claims 1-6, and has indicated that claim 8, which is objected to, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-6, and 8 remain pending in the application. Claim 8 has been amended and claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Official Action of September 1, 2005, claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi, U.S. Patent No. 5,466,145.

Claim 7 has been canceled without in any way acquiescing in the propriety of the above-noted rejection.

Claim 8 has been rewritten to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 7 in compliance with the Examiner's indication.

Applicants' incorporation of the features of claim 7 into claim 8 is made without in any way acquiescing in the propriety of the rejection made by the Examiner. Rather these amendments are made only to expedite allowance of the present application.

Comments on Examiner's Reasons for Allowance

In response to the allowable subject matter indicated in the Official Action, and to the statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter therein, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, Applicants submit that each of the claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the totality of the particular features recited therein.

Summary

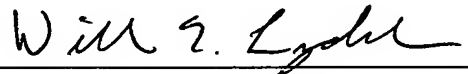
Independent claim 8 is now in condition for allowance in view of the amendments and the above-noted remarks. Claims 1-6 are also submitted to be in condition for allowance in view of the Examiner's indication of the same. It is respectfully requested, therefore, that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn and that an early indication of the allowance of claims 1-6 and 8 thereof be given.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

P24305.A04

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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November 1, 2005
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